

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor
Steven K. Reviczky, Commissioner
Steve Jensen, Editor



Connecticut Department of Agriculture
June 9, 2015



Nancy Strong enters a chicken coop at the Strong Family Farm in Vernon, where she was raised and now runs a community garden and agricultural education center.

ON A MISSION TO REINVENT, KEEP FAMILY FARM THRIVING IN THE SUBURBS

By Steve Jensen, Office of Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky

VERNON - With its array of distinctive yellow barns just steps from one of the busiest intersections in town, the Strong Family Farm has for generations been an agricultural icon, even as the suburbia around it continually closes in.

The dairy cows and draft horses and Thanksgiving turkeys that for so long were a roadside attraction as well as a family business have all gradually vanished over the years.

But after six decades of living on the landmark farm owned by her family for 137 years, Nancy Strong now spends her days working to ensure it remains alive as a non-profit community garden and agricultural education center where the lifetime of farm lessons she learned here are passed along.

"This is my legacy, the work that was done here and the stories about my father and my grandfather and all of their fathers and grandfathers," said Strong, a retired librarian. "I don't ever want that to die."

Much of her time is spent planning extensive renovations at the farm and seeking ways to help finance them. The Department of Agriculture recently awarded her a grant to help convert a section of a 1917 barn into a farm store that will sell only Connecticut Grown produce and products.

"Nancy's work not only to preserve her family's farm but to keep it as a source of local food and agricultural education is exactly the type of initiative that benefits an entire community

in so many ways and deserves our support," Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky said.

The farm's first owner, Nathan Morgan Strong, bought the property and its orchard lands using his wife's dowry to build the 7-bedroom homestead where Nancy Strong and her 94-year-old mother, Geraldine, still live today.

Her father, Norman Randall Strong, took over the farm in the 1950s, raising fruits and vegetables for sale and hay that fed his herd of Holstein dairy cows.

He passed away in 2010, about a year after completing an exhaustively detailed history of the farm based on his own experiences and the stories of his father and grandfather.

Nancy said he had urged her father to write the account, which he did in longhand before she typed his words into her computer.

"He wrote that when he was 92," she recalled. "Right up to the end his mind was sharp."

The history, available on the farm's website, contains countless stories of life on and around the farm.

Among them was his recollection of how his father and uncle, well-known dairy farmer Charlie Dart, used to get their herd of cows to and from a summer pasture they rented in Hebron, some 15 miles away.

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PA LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Avg. Dressing

	LOW	HIGH
SLAUGHTER COWS:		
breakers 75-80% lean	99.00	111.00
boners 80-85% lean	99.00	112.00
lean 85-90% lean	93.00	105.50
CALVES graded bull		
No 1 114-128 lbs	480.00	480.00
No 1 98-118 lbs	490.00	500.00
No 1 86-96 lbs	590.00	610.00
No 2 120-128 lbs	465.00	465.00
No 2 106-118 lbs	490.00	500.00
No 2 94-104 lbs	537.00	560.00
No 2 80-92 lbs	590.00	620.00
No 3 100-130 lbs	465.00	480.00
No 3 90-98 lbs	540.00	540.00
No 3 72-88 lbs	600.00	600.00
SLAUGHTER STEERS		
HiCh/Prm 3-4	159.00	165.00
Ch2-3	153.00	161.50
Sel1-3	149.00	159.50
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS		
HiCh/Prm 3-4	149.00	153.00
Ch2-3	140.00	149.00
Sel1-2	133.00	141.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
HiCh/Prm3-4	159.50	165.00
Ch2-3	151.00	159.50
Sel1-2	146.00	155.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA

	Markets:	
SLAUGHTER LAMBS:Non-Traditional		
Ch2-3		
60-70 lbs	245.00	270.00
70-80 lbs	225.00	255.00
80-110 lbs	205.00	220.00
110-120 lbs	172.00	205.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3		
80-110 lbs	90.00	100.00
110-150 lbs	75.00	85.00
BUCKS		
80-100 lbs	87.00	100.00
180-200 lbs	90.00	95.00
SLAUGHTER GOATS: Sel.1, by head, est.		
30-40 lbs	320.00	325.00
40-50 lbs	320.00	330.00
50-70 lbs	320.00	340.00
70-80 lbs	310.00	310.00
Nannies/Does:90-125 lbs	165.00	195.00
Bucks/Billies: 120-190 lbs	160.00	175.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA.**HOG AUCTION**

52-56	200-300 lbs	56.00	59.00
	300-350 lbs	52.00	57.00
	350-400 lbs	45.00	45.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	52.00	58.00
	300-350 lbs	45.50	50.00
	350-400 lbs	38.50	42.00
Sows, US1-3			
	400-500 lbs	n/a	n/a
	500-650 lbs	28.00	31.50
Boars	400-700 lbs	8.00	8.00

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices

NEW ENGLAND GROWN

	LOW	HIGH
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 5LBS	14.00	14.00
APPLES, MAC, 120, US#1	17.00	17.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12OZ	12.00	15.00
BEETS, 25 LBS	9.00	9.00
CIDER, APPLE 4-1 GAL	21.00	21.00
FIDDLEHEAD FERNS, 10 LB	45.00	60.00
LETTUCE, HYDROPONIC, 12/CS	15.00	15.00
PARSNIPS, 25 LBS	26.00	30.00
RUTABAGAS, 50LBS, WAXED	16.00	18.00
SQUASH, BTTRNT, 1-1/9 BU	26.00	28.00
TOMATOES, 25LB, GRHSE, VR	20.00	22.00
TOMS, CHRY, GHSE, ONVINE, 5LB	12.00	14.00

SHIPPED IN

BEANS, GRN, NC, MACH PK, BU	24.00	24.00
BLUEBERRIES, NC, 12-1 PT/LIDS	16.00	17.00
BOK CHOY, NJ, 1-3/4 BU	20.00	22.00
CABBAGE, NJ, 1-1/3 BU, 12-18	15.00	15.00
CARROTS, GA, 16-3LB	19.00	23.00
COLLARDS, NJ, 12-16 PER BU	13.00	15.00
CUCUMBERS, NJ, 1-1/9, X, MED	30.00	32.00
ENDIVE, NJ, 1-1/3 BU, 18	15.00	17.00
KALE, NJ, BUNCHED, 12-16	13.00	15.00
LETTUCE, RED LEAF, NJ, 24/CS	15.00	18.00
LEEK, NJ, 1-1/4 BU, 12S	16.00	20.00
PARSLEY, NJ, 1-1/9 BU, 30S	34.00	38.00
PEACHES, SC, 1/2 BU, 2-3/4"UP	26.00	30.00
PEAS, NJ, ENGLISH, BU	74.00	76.00
PEPPERS, NJ, JALEPENO, 1-1/9	20.00	20.00
RADISHES, NJ, 1/2 BRUCE, 24	13.00	17.00
SPINACH, SAVOY, NJ, 1-1/3BU, 24	23.00	24.00
SQUASH, ZUCCHINI, NJ, 1/2BU	10.00	14.00
TURNIP, PRPLE TOPS, NJ, 25LB	20.00	20.00

EAST COAST WHOLESALE HERBS

BASIL, NJ, 2 LBS, LOOSE	8.00	8.00
CHIVES, NH, 1LB, 12	8.00	10.00
CILANTRO, NJ, 1/2BRCECRT, 30	12.00	16.00
CIPOLINOS, NY, 10 LBS	16.00	20.00
DILL, NJ, 1/2 BRUCE CRT, 24	12.00	16.00
FENUGREEK (METHI) 24/CTN	22.00	23.00
MINT, NJ, 1/2 BU, 12	10.00	15.00

USDA CUT FLOWERS/WHOLESALE

ALLIUM, NJ, PER STEM, LNG	.70	.70
ALLIUM, GIANT, NJ PER STEM	4.50	5.00
BUPLEURIUM, NJ, BUNCH, LNG	8.50	8.50
DELPHINIUM, NJ, BUNCH, LNG	10.00	10.00
FOXGLOVE, NE, BNCH, LNG	12.00	12.00
GERBERA, NE, 10/BNCH, LNG	8.50	8.50
GOMPHRENA, NE, BNCH, LNG	7.50	7.50
IRIS, DUTCH, NE, 10/BNCH, LNG	7.50	7.50
LILAC, NAT, NE, BNCH, XLNG	25.00	25.00
LILAC, ASIATIC, ME, BNCH, LNG	20.00	20.00
LISIANTHUS, NE, 10/BNCH, XLNG	19.50	19.50
PEONY, SEMI-DBL, NE, 5/BCH, LNG	15.00	15.00
PEONY, SEMI-DBL, NJ, PER, LNG	2.40	2.95
SPIREA, NJ, 10/BNCH, LNG	13.50	13.50
SWEET WILLIAM, NJ, BNCH, LNG	6.00	7.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT, June 8, 2015

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	140.00	155.00
61-75 lbs.	350.00	380.00
76-90 lbs.	445.00	450.00
91-105 lbs.	455.00	460.00
106 lbs. & up	465.00	470.00
Farm Calves	480.00	490.00
Starter Calves	70.00	75.00
Veal Calves	190.00	200.00
Open Heifers	145.00	150.00
Beef Heifers	130.00	160.00
Feeder Steers	145.00	150.00
Beef Steers	114.00	143.00
Stock Bulls	165.00	185.00
Beef Bulls	135.00	140.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	n/a	n/a
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Feeder Pigs	n/a	n/a
Sheep	85.00	170.00
Lambs	140.00	275.00
Goats each	120.00	240.00
Kid Goats	85.00	170.00
Canners	up to	111.00
Cutters	112.00	116.00
Utility Grade Cows	117.00	120.00
Rabbits each	10.00	42.50
Chickens each	9.00	17.00
Ducks each	14.00	22.00

NORTHEAST EGG PRICES USDA

Per doz. Grade A and Grade A white in cartons to retailers (volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	2.41	2.63
LARGE	2.35	2.49
MEDIUM	2.12	2.25

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

Per doz. Grade A brown in carton delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	2.78	2.90
LARGE	2.75	2.87
MEDIUM	2.32	2.44

PA FEEDER PIG SUMMARY

US #1-2 30-35 lb	130.00	130.00
35-40 lb	170.00	200.00
40-50 lb	250.00	260.00
US#2-3 20-30 lb	220.00	260.00
30-40 lb	175.00	175.00
40-50 lb	120.00	140.00
75-85 lb	80.00	80.00

USDA RETAIL CHICKEN PRICES

Price per lb.

WHOLE FRYER	.99	1.29
WHOLE ROASTER	1.69	1.69
BREAST, BLNLS/SKNLS	1.99	3.99
BREAST TENDERS	2.99	3.99
THIGHS, BNLS/SKNLS	1.99	2.99

FOR SALE

1-R. Blumenthal & Donahue is now Connecticut's first independent NATIONWIDE Agri-Business Insurance Agency. Christmas tree growers, beekeepers, sheep breeders, organic farmers and all others, call us for all your insurance needs. 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com.

2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com.

3-R. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. Sonpal's Power Fence 860-491-2290.

4-R. Packaging for egg sales. New egg cartons, flats, egg cases, 30 doz and 15 doz. Polinsky Farm 860-376-2227.

5-R. Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Program, endorsed by the CT Farm Bureau, save up to 23% on your farm insurance and get better protection. References available from satisfied farmers. Call Marci today at 203-444-6553.

8-R. CT non-GMO grain and corn. Hay and straw. Pleasant View Farms. Louis. 860-803-0675.

51-R. JD 6200 2WD - Clean. \$11,000.00. JD 4000 - Real clean. \$11,000.00. Kubota L2500 loader, backhoe. 16 ft hay elevator. Hesston 4 star hydraulic tedder. 8A 3008 brush hog, heavy duty, used under 10 acres. \$4,800.00. NH 570 baler with thrower. \$10,500.00. NH 315 baler with thrower. 338 baler with kicker. \$5,500.00. IH round baler RBX 442. JD 300 round baler. \$6,000.00. 203-530-4953.

52-R. INT. #666 Dis. tractor. 3PT. Dual hyd. Nice rubber. Recent clutch, TA, brakes. Good condition. \$7,500.00. 203-623-2956.

53-R. There's still time to buy a Classic...but not much. New federal EPA-NSPS rules will soon eliminate your choice to buy a new Classic. Now is the best time to buy a new Classic. 203-263-2123 www.mywoodfurnace.com

55. John Bean/FMC Model 1229 Sprayer. 16 blade fan, John Bean 10 gpm@400 psi pump, 11 John Bean roll-over nozzles that enable you to spray either dilute or concentrate sprays by simply turning the nozzles over. Turning them half way turns them off. 100 gallon fiberglass tank and fiberglass blower housing (rust free) 3pt. hitch. Also comes with a "Green Guard" One Hand held spray gun---VERY easy to change from fog to stream; can spray with one hand and drive with the other very easily. This John Bean/FMC Sprayer is excellent for spraying vineyards, vegetables and dwarf trees. Operator's Manual recommends tractor with 35-45 HP. Comes with Original Operator's Manual. Sprayer is very simple in design and if you would ever need nozzle discs or a part, I highly recommend 'OESCOINC', formerly known as 'Orchard Equipment and Supply Co.' in Conway, MA. They have 70 plus years' experience with all types and make of Sprayers. We have done business with them for 35 years, and they have excellent knowledge and have helped me obtain whatever I needed accurately and got it to me quickly. Price further reduced: \$1,875.00 O.B.O. My email cidermill5@yahoo.com 203-283-4472 leave message.

59-R. Two (2) Tennessee Walker Horses for Sale: JIGGER: Black horse - is a stunning six year old TWH, who stands at 15hh not to mention, a total dream!!! He has a 4 beat gait, and was born for the trails! He is an amazing horse! Has the funniest personality and loves children! Jigger is a great trail partner for the whole family to enjoy! DC: Tobiano horse - is a seven year old black and white TWH who stands at 15hh, and screams attention! DC is a total dream, with his amazing coloring, yet so kind and gentle. He's very well-mannered and loves to be pampered. He has a 4 beat gait and is born for the trails. It breaks my heart to sell these horses, but sadly with everything going on, I haven't had enough time for them, and hate to see them just sit in their stalls the whole summer, then being out on the trails! Both horses have encountered dogs, cats, cows, bulls, deer, pigs, and even ATV's! And are traffic safe! I love both horses so much, only selling to good homes! Asking \$6,500 (OBO) for each horse. Please call Sam for more info at 203-906-6303.

60-R. NH 72 bale thrower. \$2,800.00. 75 HP Case IH JX 1075C, 365 hours, 4WD, cab. Like new. \$33,000.00. JD 4400 tractor, 4x4, with loader. Nice. \$14,000.00. JD 2320 4WD with loader, low hours. \$13,000.00. Kubota with rotary mower. \$3,500.00. 203-530-4953.

61. Farm sale: 3 point hitch: rear scoop; single bottom plow; 3 drag harrows. Horse drawn scoop, tedder rake and mowing machine. Farm, garden and antique tools. Dates: June 13-20, 9AM-3PM, at 37 Buck Road, Hebron.

ON A MISSION TO REINVENT, KEEP FAMILY FARM THRIVING IN THE SUBURBS**(Continued from Page 1)**

"On a given time, (Dart) would open his gate, giving my father a sign for him to also open," Norman Strong wrote. "My father would chase them down the road with his car, then two other farmers would let their heifers go and by the time they got to Bolton, they would be willing to walk to Hebron. There was a family next to the pasture that would look after them if they got out. This procedure was reversed in the fall."

Nancy Strong said it was also her father who instilled in her the love for teaching others about farming and caring for animals. He ran the local 4-H Club of which she was a member, meeting either at their farm or a neighbor's.

"He taught by example more than by spoken instruction," she recalled. "I remember watching him teach the kids how to make a harness out of rope. Nobody does that anymore."

Norman Strong also was on the original advisory board that created the agricultural education program at local Rockville High School.

Decades later, Nancy Strong is carrying on that tradition by opening her farm up to students in the program.

Walking the farm last week with a visitor, Strong's cell phone buzzed as she received a text message from a student looking for a bit of help documenting the progress of her row of strawberries that is part of her spring project.

"Oh – it's one of the Strawberry Girls," Strong said excitedly as she read the message. "She wants me to take some pictures of her strawberries because she forgot to when she was here yesterday."

Educating young people about farm life is one Strong's core missions, accomplished through a non-stop series of demonstrations, speakers, movies and hands-on projects she offers.

One of them, called Adopt-A-Chick, gives youngsters the chance to "foster" a spring chicken at the farm over the course of ten weeks, learning about its life cycle as well as how to feed and care for it.

She has for six years been working with Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation on a capital needs and feasibility assessment that will guide the long-term future of the farm.

One of her plans is to convert part of one of the barns into a commercial kitchen that would be available to local growers.

For now, the farm sells fruit and vegetables grown in its community garden, where town resident Karen Bradford was picking strawberries last week. Produce is split 50-50 between the farm and the gardeners.

"It's great, especially if you don't have a lot of space for your own garden," said Bradford, who usually has her two young children in tow to help with the picking and weeding. "It gives me a chance to put the kids to work - and they love it."

As Bradford spoke, sirens blared from the public-safety complex next door, buses and students spilled out of the nearby school and a long line of traffic began to build up at the intersection of West Street and Hartford Turnpike, where the farm today is the definition of an anomaly.

Strong says the ongoing development around the farm only makes her mission more clear.

"All the traffic and the noise – it just makes me want to preserve this place even more," she said. "It's just so precious you don't want to ever lose it."



Above left: Karen Bradford and Nancy Strong picking strawberries in the community garden.
Above: Nancy Strong (middle) with sister Carol Strong Nelson and her 4-H project calf, and brother Morgan Strong, who ran the farm until moving to Virginia a few years ago.
Left: The farm's original owner, Nathan Morgan Strong.



MISCELLANEOUS

6-R. Farm/Land specializing in land, farms, and all types of Real Estate. Established Broker with a lifetime of agricultural experience and 40 years of finance. Representing both Buyers and Sellers. Call Clint Charter of Wallace-Tustin Realty (860) 644-5667.

41-R. Bulldozing in Eastern Connecticut. Large farm ponds dug. Land clearing for farmers also a specialty. Work done with rootrake to preserve topsoil and remove rocks. Personal service. Will help with permits. Don Kemp 860-546-9500.

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OF AGRICULTURE
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